Dear Jim,

If you have not read the Enquirer story you should. If you have not gotten it I will send you a copy. And if the Rays never do anything that isn't crazy, this is the most insane yet.

It may figure in Haile's unexplained interests.

I think I should ask the Enquirer for a dub of the tape but I will not unless you and Bud agree.

Paul read the misprison part to me over the phone Friday. He so interpreted it. I know this is not what James meant and I was able to make Paul see what I am sure he did but Paul is neither judge nor jury.

Unless we can stop this kind of thing once and for all we may all be spinning our wheels. It is not because I did not understand it was possible. It is rather because I was not listened to.

I have too much to do and too little time for wheel-spinning.

If this can be stopped is a question, as is how. But any alternative to my having fairly frequent face-toface meetings with James is not apparent to me. I was willing to invest the time but that was not enough to make it possible.

Do you now better understand my stipulations on any civil cases and on my doing any new work?

What is more discouraging is that we let it happen, not the predictable, that it did. Failure to address it is one of the factors that has been in my mind. It is like ignoring a pregnancy in the hope it will end itself.

Also a concern is not the story but what lies behind today's Post's non-account of Baker's yesterday appearance on Face the Nation. I have had a long talk with Barry about it. I see their delayed reporting of the not-new efforts as the telegraphing of the next step in Nixon's survival. I believe that what can and I expect will be done to the Post to take the breath. If I were doing it the Post would not survive in its present form or with its present people and wealth. If I did not expect the Woodward accusation, what a case I can make on that! I have been unease enough about other facets to have written about them in the recent past, if I did not send you a carbon. It is not a new concern. It has new possible ramifications. I may, in fact, have been in the middle of it back in 1966 and then had suspicions.

In talking to Barry I had to be aware of the possibility of eavesdropping so I was explicit enough on some things and quite elliptical on others. He is not high enough on the Post's totem pole to expect anything. I have written him separately, not a long letter, on the slight hope that the Post may serve its selfish interests. However, I felt it was worth the effort, despite the odds.

When these kinds of things take up much of a day for me I do have to wonder about how I spend my days two weeks before my 61st birthday.

At about your normal nedtime I planned to write you an explanation of my letter to Shattuck. It was not just to make him mad. But when I have been up more than 11 hours and haven't had time to take care of the mail or read the paper, this is not a day for it. At this point it will have to wait. I did note a carbon to you to add to the challenge to him and the ACLU. My personal experiences with it go back to the 30s and are not favorable to it or its unchanging hierarchy. (Don't make a copy of today's Times McMillan story for me. I've been told of it by phone and been promised a copy.)

When these kinds of things that are entirely outside my control or even influence do happen, I have to put more emphasis on the personal things I have mentioned to you without our having time to go into them. I will have your and Carmen's tax returns Thursday. He has finished them, I think with good news for you and May. Best,